

To: SCMS Pedagogy Award Committee

I am writing in support of Dr. Chuck Kleinhans' nomination for the Society for Cinema and Media Studies Teaching Award. In many ways I owe my current career to Dr. Kleinhans mentorship and hardly a day goes by that I am not reminded of the profound influence he has had on my own approach to teaching.

I entered Northwestern's doctoral program having already worked for several years as a theatrical fight director, and in one of my first courses Dr. Kleinhans showed me how this professional experience could be used to illuminate a number of ongoing academic debates. So powerful was the revelation that my artistic life could be used for scholarly purposes that even though I was enrolled as a theatre and drama student, I took four additional television and film courses from Dr. Kleinhans and additionally asked him to serve as the chair of my dissertation committee.

I did this not only because Dr. Kleinhans helped me find the connections between my art and my research, but also because he was able to work across these disciplines and show me how to make countless interdisciplinary connections I had never before even considered. Furthermore, he consistently taught what were otherwise very complex theoretical and methodological subjects in the clearest, most straightforward and unpretentious manner I had ever before encountered. To this day as a teacher I strive to emulate Dr. Kleinhans' pedagogy in all of my classes, for the best gifts he gave me were the ability to find my own voice and the courage to share my knowledge with others (regardless of what are sometimes considered disciplinary "boundaries").

Perhaps one of the most significant things Dr. Kleinhans did to help build my career was to facilitate my ability to publish in academic journals. He did this, first, by encouraging me to revise a class paper for submission to Jump Cut (a journal he co-edits); second, by judiciously editing my writing and then publishing what became my first two articles; and finally, by continuing to help me identify new topics on which to write and new venues in which to publish. In fact Dr. Kleinhans' guidance is directly responsible for five of my current articles, two forthcoming articles and at least half a dozen conference paper presentations. Furthermore, nearly every bibliographic citation of my work and every article that is used in a university course (both in the United States and internationally) is a direct result of the work I have done for or with Dr. Kleinhans.

Even though no longer a graduate student, I continue to value Dr. Kleinhans' long-term mentorship and have sought his advice on many occasions. His guidance has helped me negotiate a number of delicate situations I encountered as a young faculty member on my way to tenure (in fact he helped guide me through the very application and interview process that secured me this job in the first place) and his advice has been invaluable in many areas of my ongoing professional development.

Dr. Kleinhans has my highest possible recommendation for this award. Please feel free to contact me if you would like any additional information in this regard.

Respectfully,

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